



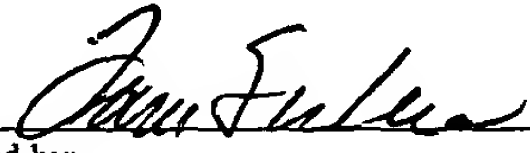
Patent
Case No.: 55243US009

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor: LODER, HARRY A.
Application No.: 09/643333 Group Art Unit: 2874
Filed: August 22, 2000 Examiner: Sung H. Pak
Title: OPTICAL FIBER CONNECTOR SYSTEM

15/10
10-9-02
J. Antis

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED MAY 1, 2002

Dear Sir:

The present is a response to the Office Action dated May 1, 2002 having a three-month response date of August 1, 2002. A Request for a two-month Extension of Time is hereby enclosed making the due date for response October 1, 2002. Upon review of the present response, an allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

I. AMENDMENTS

Please amend claims 23 - 31 as follows:

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23. A backplane connector assembly for making optical connections through a backplane, the connector assembly comprising

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a backplane housing defining at least one longitudinal receiving cavity through the backplane, the receiving cavity having a frontal opening along the front surface of the backplane member configured to receive a first optical connector and a rear

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